



Specter in '64: To "satisfy history."

Arlen: Warren Panel Right

By ARLEN SPECTER

Ten years after the assassination of President Kennedy, two moments of horror stand out in my mind.

I remember the shock of hearing of the President's murder when I was riding in a City Hall elevator returning to the district attorney's office that Friday afternoon in late November 1963. I remember the sickening feeling while reading his autopsy report on a train back to Philadelphia from Washington, D. C., the day I signed on to work on the Warren Commission staff.

President Kennedy's assassination inevitably enhanced his stature as a giant in American history. I thought he was great even while he was alive.

WHEN HE CAME TO Philadelphia in early 1960 to speak at the traditional Democratic rally in Convention Hall, Joan (8½ months pregnant with our Stephen) and I stood on chairs to catch a glimpse of the strikingly

The Author

Arlen Specter, 43, two weeks ago today was defeated for reelection as district attorney, a post he's held since 1966. Specter served nine months as an assistant counsel to the Warren Commission, traveling more than 30,000 miles and questioning about 100 persons. He authored the "single-bullet" theory—that the first bullet passed through the President's neck and then struck Gov. John Connally.

handsome young candidate.

To this generation of Americans, JFK is well remembered and well loved.

I believe the Warren Commission reached correct conclusions in its investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. In a free society, the truth emerges under the probing of an active press and the pursuit of other interested citizens.

If there were significant facts to dispute the Warren Commission findings, I believe they already would have been disclosed in the decade since.

AS A LAWYER WORKING for the commission, I was with Chief Justice Earl Warren when he questioned Jack Ruby and later with Ruby when he took the lie detector test. I was assigned to question the autopsy surgeons, the Dallas physicians who attended to the President and Gov. John Connally, and many of the witnesses who clustered around the Texas School Book Depository Building. The facts obtained all support the Warren Commission.

Like the assassination of President Lincoln, I believe people will write about and question the Warren Commission for the next century and beyond.

But the Warren Commission satisfied Bobby Kennedy. I think the Warren Commission will satisfy history.

PHILA. INQUIRER, Dec. 4, 1973